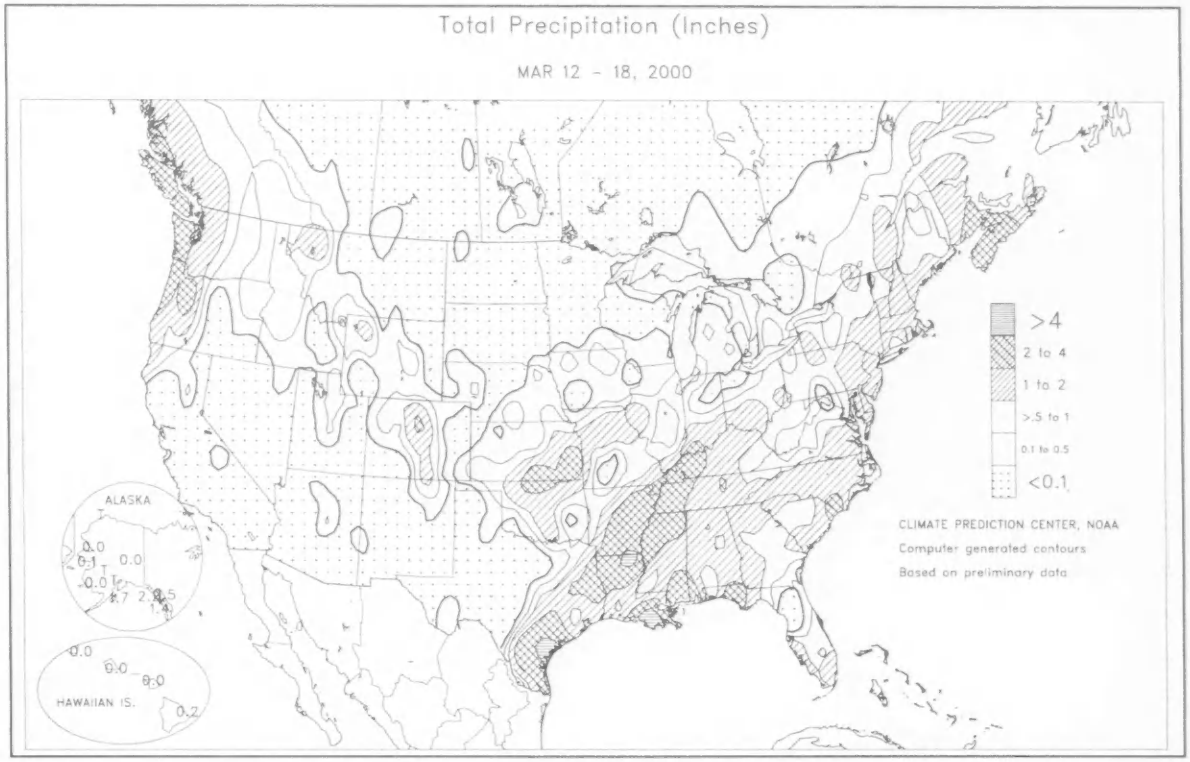
Volume 87, No. 12 March 21, 2000

WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
National Agricultural Statistics Service
and World Agricultural Outlook Board



HIGHLIGHTS

March 12 - 18, 2000

From **southern and eastern Texas** to the **Atlantic Coast**, widespread rainfall improved topsoil moisture and eased long-term drought, benefiting pastures, winter grains, and recently planted summer crops. On the **central Plains**, precipitation further improved soil moisture for winter wheat development, especially from **southeastern Nebraska** southward into **Oklahoma**. Weekly rainfall ranged from 2 to 4 inches, with locally higher totals, in most locations from **southern Texas** to the **lower Ohio Valley**, including key agricultural areas in the **Delta**. Totals also exceeded 2 inches in several locations along the **Gulf Coast** and on the **east-central Plains**. Meanwhile,

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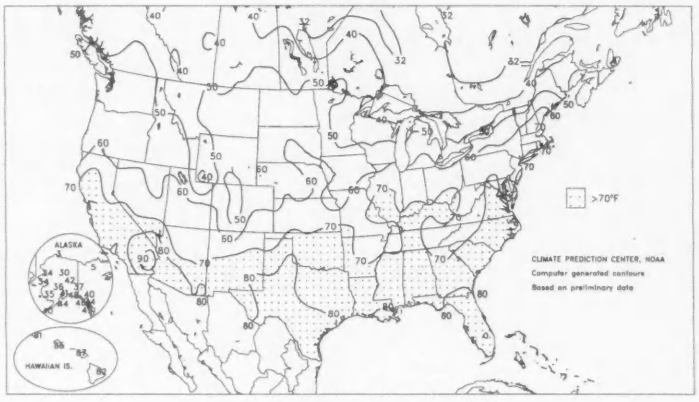
(Continued from front cover)

windy, mostly dry conditions continued to adversely affect dryland winter wheat on the **southern High Plains**, although light precipitation briefly dampened **Texas' northern panhandle**. Farther west, warm, dry weather returned to the **Southwest**, and favored an acceleration of spring fieldwork in **California**. Weekly temperatures averaged 4 to 6°F above normal in **California's Central Valley**, and up to 8°F above normal in **Arizona**. In contrast, readings averaged as much as 4°F below normal from the **central and southern Plains** into the **Southeast**, slowing the growth of pastures and winter grains. Bitterly cold air (temperatures below 10°F) remained confined to areas from **northern Montana** and the **Dakotas** eastward to **northern New England**. Although temperatures briefly fell below 20°F as far south as **northwestern Kansas** and the **lower Ohio Valley**, the colder weather did not significantly affect winter wheat, which was jointing only as far north as **Oklahoma** and **southern Kansas**. Scattered frost and near-freezing temperatures did not have a major effect on blooming fruit trees from **central Texas** into the **Southeast**.

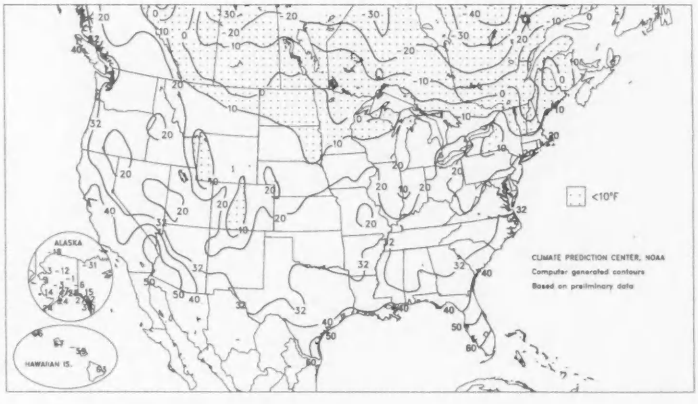
Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)

MAR 12 - 18, 2000



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)

MAR 12 - 18, 2000



On Tuesday, locally heavy rain developed across **southeastern Texas**. Daily-record totals were noted on March 14 in **Corpus Christi** (3.66 inches) and **Brownsville** (2.38 inches). **Corpus Christi's** only heavier single-day total during March was 4.66 inches, observed on March 10, 1903. March 14-15 rainfall locally exceeded 6 inches near **Corpus Christi**, with totals reaching 12.50 inches in **Aransas Pass**, 12.00 inches in **Bayside**, and 6.69 inches in **Rockport**. Meanwhile, heavy snow blanketed the **central Rockies**. By March 15, storm-total snowfall northwest of **Denver, CO** reached 23 inches near **Allenspark** and **Estes Park**. **Denver** received 5.4 inches.

On Thursday, snow fell as far south as **Texas' northern panhandle**, although amounts were generally light. Heavy snow was observed across parts of **south-central Kansas**, where more than 6 inches fell in some areas. Snow also blanketed parts of the **Northeast**, where **Caribou, ME** logged a daily-record amount (10.0 inches) on March 12. Late in the week, precipitation returned to the **Northeast**, where measurable snow was observed as far south as **New York City** (0.4 inch on March 16-17 at Central Park). Farther north, March 17 snowfall reached 6.8 inches in **Portland, ME**, 1 day after a daily-record high of 67°F.

Beneficial, locally heavy rain returned to the **South** at week's end. On Saturday, **Monroe, LA** (2.31 inches) posted their first of two consecutive daily rainfall records. **Monroe's** March 18-19 rainfall totaled 3.54 inches. In **Alabama**, March rainfall through week's end climbed to 8.80 inches in **Birmingham** and 5.35 inches in **Huntsville**. Elsewhere in the **South**, March 1-18 rainfall reached 4.10 inches in **Tupelo, MS** and 3.76 inches in **Shreveport, LA**. In **Florida**, however, large moisture deficits persisted. **Tampa's** March 1-18 total, 0.11 inch, left their year-to-date sum at 2.36 inches (33 percent of normal). Similarly, **Orlando's** year-to-date rainfall stood at 1.90 inches (26 percent of normal), including 0.31 inch during the first 18 days of March.

Colder weather **east of the Rockies** stood in stark contrast to recent record warmth. **Marquette, MI** noted a low of -1°F on March 16, just 8 days after a March-record high of 71°F. **Marquette's** snow depth, which had dropped to 1 inch on March 8, rose to 10 inches by March 16. During the 40-year period of record, **Marquette's** snow depth had never fallen to 4 inches or below before March 15 (in 1990 and 1994). Meanwhile, cooler air twice spread southward in the wake of strong spring storm systems. Early in the week, frost and near-freezing temperatures reached deep into the **Southeast**, where Monday's low temperatures fell to 30°F in **Evergreen, AL** and **Macon, GA**; 31°F in **Jackson, MS** and **Tallahassee, FL**; and 32°F in **Cross City, FL** and **Montgomery, AL**. Several days later, cold air made a push southward through the **Plains**, where Friday's lows dipped to 16°F in **Hill City, KS** and 27°F in **Lubbock** and **Midland, TX**.

Meanwhile, an offshore airflow contributed to **California's** warmth, resulting in several daily-record highs. **Pismo Beach, CA** ended the week with four consecutive records, including highs of 87°F on March 17 and 18. **Simi Valley, CA** (87°F) also posted a daily-record high on Saturday.

In **Hawaii**, mostly dry weather, accompanied by temperatures up to 2°F above normal, persisted through an eighth consecutive week, resulting in further drought intensification in most areas on the **central and eastern islands**. Meanwhile in **Alaska**, temperatures were well above normal statewide. Weekly readings ranged from 8 to 15°F above normal across **western and interior Alaska**. In the latter region, the mild weather represented a ninth consecutive week with above-normal temperatures.

Weather Data for Selected Locations in the Delta

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 18, 2000

Data provided by the Mississippi State Delta Research and Extension Center (DREC) and the Southern Regional Climate Center (SRCC).

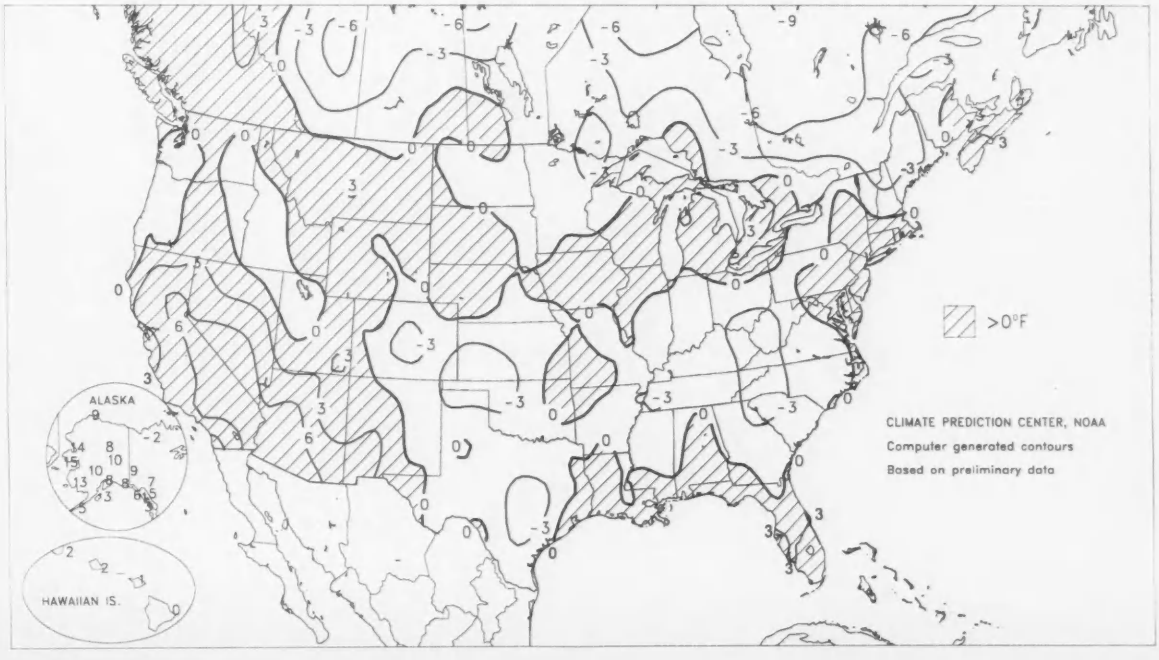
STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							4-INCH SOIL TEMP, °F		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																	TEMP. °F		PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
MS	BATESVILLE [x]	63	36	71	29	51	-1	2.00	0.76	1.49	2.66	78	–	–	–	–	0	3	2	2
	BELZONI [x]	64	42	75	32	53	-3	3.50	2.12	1.90	3.60	98	–	–	–	–	0	1	4	3
	CLARKSDALE [x]	63	44	72	29	54	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0	1	–	–
	CLEVELAND [x]	60	40	68	31	50	-4	2.61	1.63	1.88	3.53	106	9.24	70	–	–	0	3	3	2
	GREENVILLE [x]	60	41	69	33	51	-5	2.18	0.98	1.72	3.48	104	–	–	–	–	0	0	2	1
	GREENWOOD [x]	65	45	75	32	55	-1	2.95	1.75	1.33	5.44	169	9.76	83	–	–	0	1	4	3
	INDIANOLA 1S	65	48	74	34	54	–	2.70	–	1.03	4.07	–	–	–	56	53	0	0	3	3
	INVERNESS 5E	64	46	75	35	55	–	2.76	–	1.04	4.77	–	9.01	–	–	–	0	0	3	3
	LYON	63	43	72	29	53	–	3.33	–	2.16	4.58	–	9.25	–	–	–	0	1	3	2
	MOORHEAD [x]	65	47	77	36	56	0	3.60	2.40	1.90	5.08	156	7.20	59	–	–	0	0	4	3
	ONWARD	65	46	75	35	56	–	2.24	–	1.31	3.54	–	–	–	64	53	0	0	3	2
	ROLLING FORK [x]	64	42	72	34	53	-2	1.68	0.50	1.41	1.80	56	5.02	39	–	–	0	0	3	1
	SIDON	67	47	77	35	57	–	1.95	–	0.74	2.84	–	7.27	–	–	–	0	0	3	3
	TUNICA [x]	61	43	72	30	52	0	2.99	1.92	1.68	–	–	–	–	–	–	0	1	3	2
	VICKSBURG [x]	67	45	75	34	56	-2	2.75	1.37	1.52	4.75	133	–	–	–	–	0	0	3	2
	YAZOO CITY [x]	65	43	75	33	54	-3	1.97	0.57	0.94	4.24	115	6.70	47	–	–	0	0	3	2
	STONEVILLE *	61	42	68	32	52	-2	2.46	1.27	1.93	3.85	126	8.97	72	63	51	0	1	3	1

Compiled by USDA/OCE/WAOB's Stoneville Field Office.
* Based on 1964-93 normals.
[x] Based on 1961-90 normals.

Delta Weather and Crop Summary: For the first time since early February, temperatures in the Mississippi Delta averaged near or below normal. Farmers continued to prepare the land for planting as soils dried from earlier rains. Precipitation returned to the Delta at midweek, boosting soil moisture for pastures and winter grains, but halting fieldwork.

Departure of Average Temperature from Normal (°F)

MAR 12 - 18, 2000



National Drought Summary

Released 11:00 a.m. EDT, Thursday, March 16, 2000

The South-Central and Southeastern States: Heavy rains (2 to 5 inches) fell on much of the D2 drought areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, while light to moderate rains (1 to 2 inches) dampened most of the D0 and D1 regions of northeastern Texas, southeastern Oklahoma, the eastern Tennessee Valley and southern Appalachians, and much of the Southeast, with the exception of Florida, southeastern Georgia, and coastal Louisiana and Mississippi where it was mostly dry. Since the previous week was relatively dry in the Delta, no improvement occurred to the Delta's drought condition. In southeastern Oklahoma and west-central Alabama, however, 4 straight weeks of moderate rains diminished the D0 and D1 areas, respectively. In contrast, the third successive dry week expanded the D1 area into southwestern Florida, and continuing subnormal rains along the eastern Gulf Coast increased the D2 area into southeastern Louisiana, southern Mississippi, and the Florida Panhandle. Abnormal dryness (D0) was added to interior South Carolina after receiving reports from the state's natural resources office.

The Plains, Midwest, and Central Appalachians: Unseasonably heavy precipitation, some in the form of snow, fell on much of the central and northern Plains and upper Midwest. One-half to two inches of precipitation in central Kansas, western Nebraska, most of South Dakota, southern North Dakota, central Minnesota, and northern Wisconsin significantly alleviated D0 dryness and decreased D1 drought areas. The Corn Belt, however, generally received little or no precipitation, and D2 drought remained or slightly expanded as defined by the latest PDI, streamflow, and soil moisture anomaly maps. D0 was expanded into eastern Ohio and central Virginia after their third straight dry week.

The Rockies and Western States: With the Pacific storm track diving into the Southwest, several storm systems dropped significant precipitation (more than 0.5 inches) on most of California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, and northwestern New Mexico. Northern and central Arizona experienced its third consecutive week of significant precipitation (2 to 4 inches of precipitation this week), diminishing D1 areas to D0 across most of southern Arizona, and eliminating D0 dryness across western Nevada, central Arizona, southern Utah, and extreme northern New Mexico. October 1-March 12 basin average snow water content and precipitation surpassed 2/3rds of normal across northern parts of Arizona and New Mexico. Mostly dry weather, however, continued across the rest of New Mexico as D1 and D2 drought remained.

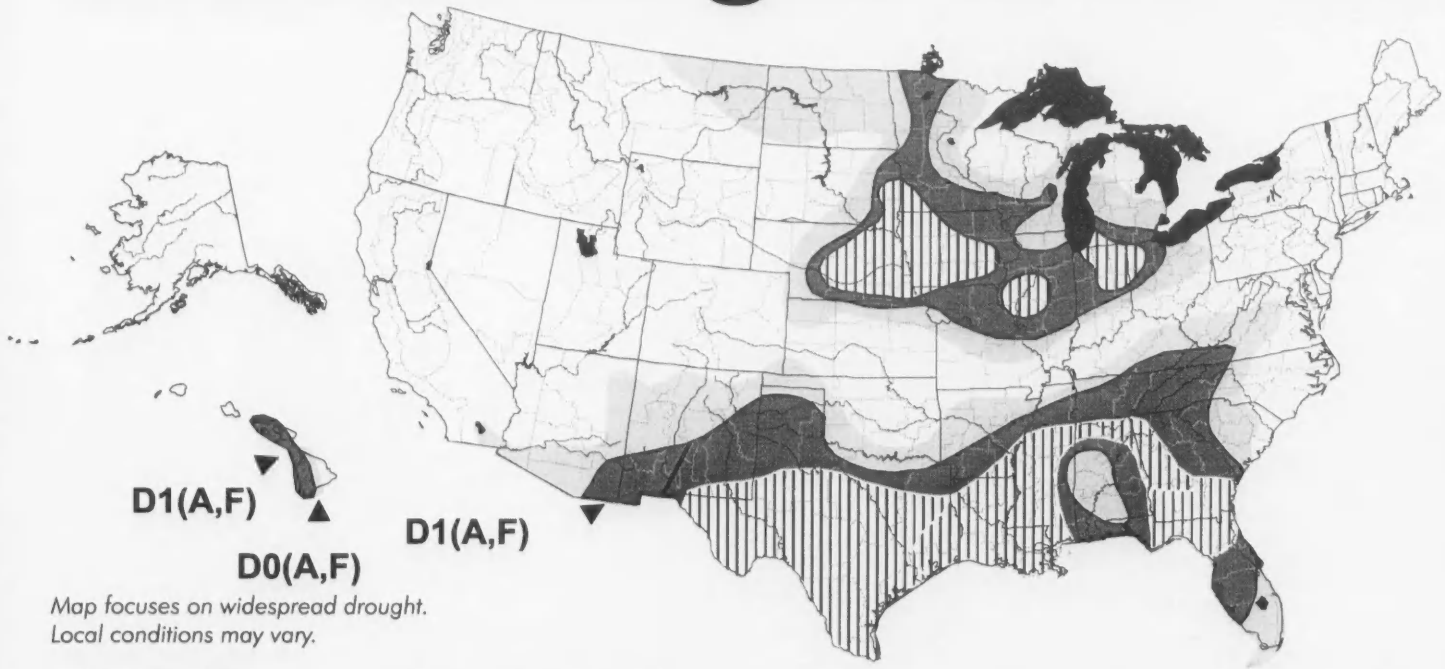
Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico: Mostly dry weather persisted across the Hawaiian Islands. Although light, scattered showers occurred during March 6-8 across Molokai, Lanai, northern Maui, and northern and eastern sections of the Big Island, weekly totals were generally less than 0.10 inches across D1 areas, impacting pastures, non-irrigated agriculture, and wildfire conditions. Continued well-below normal rainfall on the Big Island this year prompted the addition of a D0 area across central sections.

For the current Drought Monitor (released every Thursday at 11:00 a.m. EDT) and associated drought products, indices, and information, go to the National Drought Mitigation Center's web site at:

http://enso.unl.edu/monitor/monitor.html

March 14, 2000 Valid 7 a.m. EST

U.S. Drought Monitor



Map focuses on widespread drought.
Local conditions may vary.

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought-First Stage
- D2 Drought–Severe
- D3 Drought–Extreme
- D4 Drought–Exceptional
- Delineates Overlapping Areas

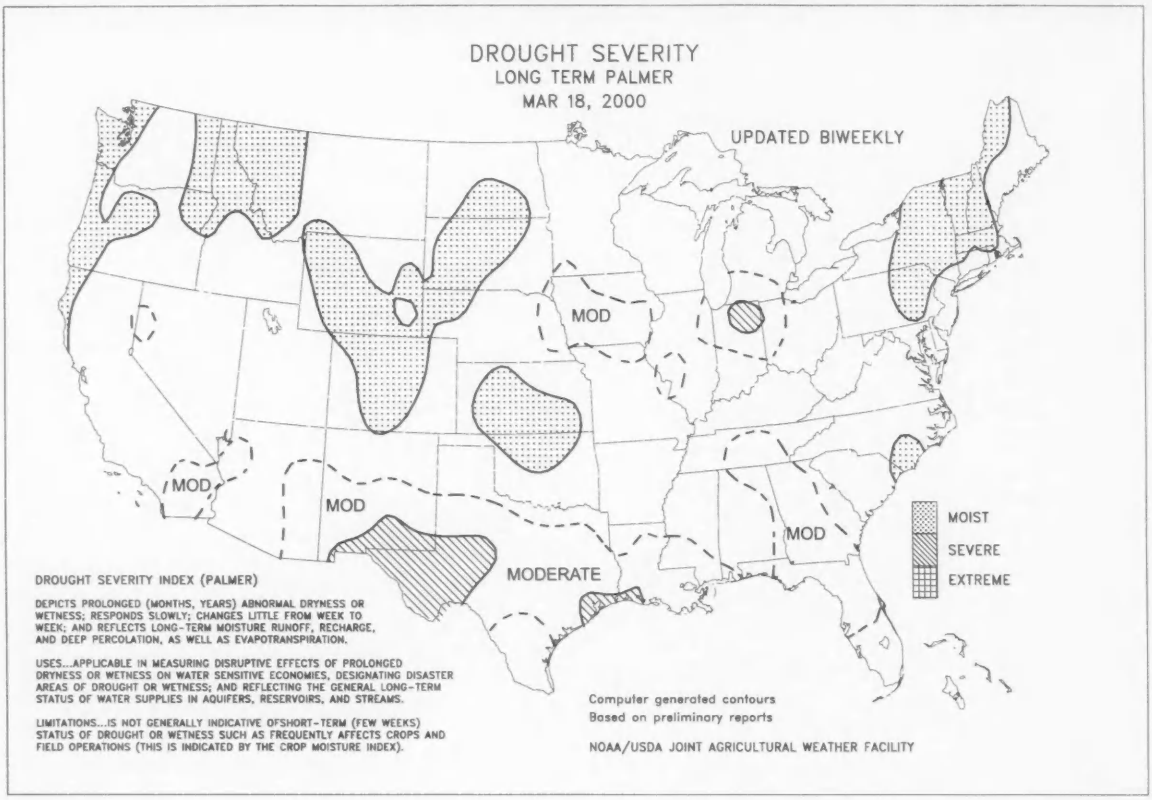
Drought type: used only when impacts differ

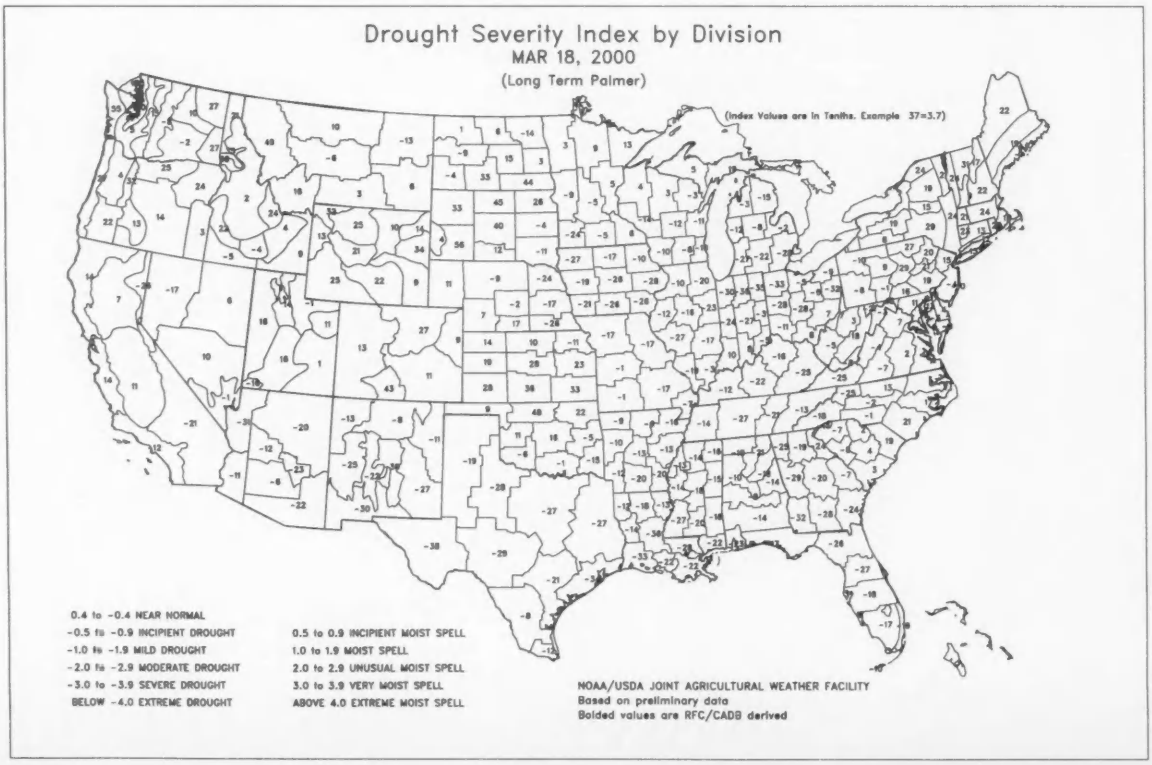
A = Agriculture
W = Water
F = Forest fire danger

USDA — National Drought Mitigation Center — Department of Commerce, United States of America — NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce

•Released Thursday, March 16, 2000•

Plus (+) = Forecast to intensify next two weeks
Minus (-) = Forecast to diminish next two weeks
No sign = No change in drought classification forecast


DROUGHT SEVERITY
LONG TERM PALMER
MAR 18, 2000
UPDATED BIWEEKLY
MOD
MOD
MOD
MOD
MODERATE
MOIST
SEVERE
EXTREME
DROUGHT SEVERITY INDEX (PALMER)
DEPICTS PROLONGED (MONTHS, YEARS) ABNORMAL DRYNESS OR WETNESS; RESPONDS SLOWLY; CHANGES LITTLE FROM WEEK TO WEEK; AND REFLECTS LONG-TERM MOISTURE RUNOFF, RECHARGE, AND DEEP PERCOLATION, AS WELL AS EVAPOTRANSPIRATION.
USES...APPLICABLE IN MEASURING DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS OF PROLONGED DRYNESS OR WETNESS ON WATER SENSITIVE ECONOMIES, DESIGNATING DISASTER AREAS OF DROUGHT OR WETNESS; AND REFLECTING THE GENERAL LONG-TERM STATUS OF WATER SUPPLIES IN AQUIFERS, RESERVOIRS, AND STREAMS.
LIMITATIONS...IS NOT GENERALLY INDICATIVE OFSHORT-TERM (FEW WEEKS) STATUS OF DROUGHT OR WETNESS SUCH AS FREQUENTLY AFFECTS CROPS AND FIELD OPERATIONS (THIS IS INDICATED BY THE CROP MOISTURE INDEX).
Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary reports
NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY


Drought Severity Index by Division
MAR 18, 2000
(Long Term Palmer)
(Index Values are in Tenths. Example 37=3.7)
0.4 to -0.4 NEAR NORMAL
-0.5 to -0.9 INCIPIENT DROUGHT
-1.0 to -1.9 MILD DROUGHT
-2.0 to -2.9 MODERATE DROUGHT
-3.0 to -3.9 SEVERE DROUGHT
BELOW -4.0 EXTREME DROUGHT
0.5 to 0.9 INCIPIENT MOIST SPELL
1.0 to 1.9 MOIST SPELL
2.0 to 2.9 UNUSUAL MOIST SPELL
3.0 to 3.9 VERY MOIST SPELL
ABOVE 4.0 EXTREME MOIST SPELL
NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY
Based on preliminary data
Bolded values are RFC/CADB derived

National Weather Data for Selected Cities

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 18, 2000

Data Provided by Climate Prediction Center (301-763-8000, Ext. 7503)

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																	TEMP °F		PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	50 INCH OR MORE
AL	BIRMINGHAM	65	45	75	32	55	1	0.14	-1.29	0.12	6.05	168	13.94	104	81	34	0	1	2	0
	HUNTSVILLE	62	39	73	30	51	-1	0.34	-1.20	0.26	1.85	48	8.70	63	87	51	0	2	3	0
	MOBILE	72	49	77	35	60	0	2.55	1.07	1.77	2.86	75	6.83	49	89	51	0	0	3	1
	MONTGOMERY	69	45	76	32	57	0	1.08	-0.36	0.76	1.44	39	7.36	53	84	32	0	1	2	1
AK	ANCHORAGE	38	29	41	27	34	8	0.01	-0.16	0.01	0.01	2	2.13	107	79	68	0	7	1	0
	BARROW	-4	-10	3	-18	-7	8	0.01	-0.02	0.00	0.01	14	0.45	115	84	77	0	7	1	0
	FAIRBANKS	34	8	42	-1	21	10	0.00	-0.08	0.00	0.00	0	1.97	182	71	57	0	7	0	0
	JUNEAU	41	35	44	32	38	5	0.51	-0.23	0.14	1.24	63	7.62	74	86	73	0	2	5	0
	KODIAK	40	32	44	24	36	3	1.68	0.63	1.29	4.26	155	12.43	81	94	87	0	4	6	1
	NOME	30	17	34	9	23	14	0.08	-0.03	0.08	0.15	54	3.65	219	76	64	0	7	1	0
AZ	FLAGSTAFF	56	24	59	20	40	5	0.00	-0.59	0.00	2.61	171	4.54	80	73	18	0	7	0	0
	PHOENIX	82	56	84	51	69	7	0.00	-0.21	0.00	3.54	632	3.55	186	48	25	0	0	0	0
	TUCSON	80	48	82	46	64	5	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.87	202	1.16	58	48	20	0	0	0	0
	YUMA	86	59	88	53	73	8	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.30	214	0.39	55	40	23	0	0	0	0
AR	FORT SMITH	63	41	73	26	52	0	0.41	-0.50	0.29	1.34	60	4.34	64	85	51	0	1	2	0
	LITTLE ROCK	61	41	69	29	51	-2	2.39	1.27	1.27	3.03	111	7.05	72	95	51	0	2	3	3
CA	BAKERSFIELD	70	50	74	45	60	3	0.00	-0.24	0.00	1.27	202	3.84	151	82	60	0	0	0	0
	EUREKA	54	42	60	36	48	-2	0.55	-0.68	0.51	1.44	48	18.15	132	86	75	0	0	2	1
	FRESNO	71	48	74	46	60	5	0.01	-0.43	0.01	0.99	88	10.27	210	89	66	0	0	1	0
	LOS ANGELES	65	54	70	51	59	1	0.01	-0.45	0.01	1.57	125	7.11	115	92	76	0	0	1	0
	REDDING	72	44	77	38	58	6	0.03	-0.99	0.03	4.11	153	21.06	160	72	41	0	0	1	0
	SACRAMENTO	72	45	76	43	59	5	0.00	-0.59	0.00	1.80	113	17.93	219	89	36	0	0	0	0
	SAN DIEGO	65	55	70	52	60	0	0.00	-0.41	0.00	0.92	87	4.78	109	92	73	0	0	0	0
	SAN FRANCISCO	65	48	71	44	56	3	0.00	-0.71	0.00	1.77	94	16.15	172	86	74	0	0	0	0
CO	ALAMOSA	51	12	58	8	32	0	0.08	-0.03	0.08	0.09	35	0.34	42	75	31	0	7	1	0
	CO SPRINGS	43	22	56	10	33	-4	0.47	0.25	0.33	0.89	175	1.80	150	93	45	0	7	4	0
	DENVER	49	23	59	14	36	-3	0.29	0.00	0.21	0.67	99	1.18	67	89	36	0	7	4	0
	GRAND JUNCTION	54	30	63	27	42	-1	0.04	-0.18	0.04	0.71	137	2.76	177	71	42	0	5	1	0
	PUEBLO	53	26	64	22	39	-3	0.90	0.72	0.55	2.06	479	2.44	230	90	55	0	7	4	1
CT	BRIDGEPORT	49	31	56	21	40	1	1.60	0.75	0.63	3.56	166	7.61	91	78	54	0	5	3	2
	HARTFORD	51	28	58	17	40	2	0.80	-0.03	0.37	2.28	110	6.71	77	80	51	0	4	3	0
DC	WASHINGTON	58	37	70	27	48	1	0.55	-0.17	0.30	0.65	35	5.72	79	75	35	0	2	3	0
DE	WILMINGTON	55	32	68	23	44	1	0.55	-0.23	0.31	1.46	74	7.14	90	77	37	0	3	2	0
FL	DAYTONA BEACH	76	56	84	45	66	2	0.66	0.00	0.55	0.66	38	3.11	41	95	52	0	0	2	1
	JACKSONVILLE	72	49	84	35	61	0	0.35	-0.49	0.16	0.35	16	4.29	45	96	53	0	0	4	0
	KEY WEST	82	72	85	70	77	3	0.24	-0.15	0.20	0.29	29	1.45	30	88	68	0	0	2	0
	MIAMI	82	70	86	66	76	4	0.13	-0.42	0.13	0.19	14	1.96	36	85	61	0	0	1	0
	ORLANDO	80	56	88	48	68	1	0.31	-0.43	0.31	0.32	16	1.91	26	93	41	0	0	1	0
	PENSACOLA	70	51	79	39	61	1	0.96	-0.34	0.50	1.04	30	5.35	40	79	55	0	0	2	1
	TALLAHASSEE	75	47	82	31	61	1	0.94	-0.50	0.94	1.03	27	4.95	35	93	45	0	1	1	1
	TAMPA	81	59	85	49	70	3	0.03	-0.67	0.03	0.03	2	2.28	33	88	41	0	0	1	0
	WEST PALM	81	68	85	67	75	5	0.00	-0.85	0.00	0.60	28	2.36	31	82	58	0	0	0	0
GA	ATHENS	62	40	70	29	51	-3	0.53	-0.74	0.50	1.84	57	8.23	67	88	54	0	1	2	1
	ATLANTA	61	42	71	32	52	-1	0.60	-0.73	0.48	1.89	55	8.04	62	75	47	0	1	2	0
	AUGUSTA	67	43	78	29	55	-1	0.47	-0.60	0.47	1.47	53	9.13	82	78	36	0	2	1	0
	COLUMBUS	68	46	76	35	57	0	1.04	-0.29	0.80	2.26	66	7.45	58	78	33	0	0	2	1
	MACON	66	42	76	30	54	-3	0.70	-0.39	0.55	2.55	89	8.13	67	94	43	0	2	2	1
	SAVANNAH	70	47	78	38	58	-1	0.47	-0.40	0.47	1.91	86	6.19	68	85	45	0	0	1	0
HI	HILO	81	63	82	63	72	0	0.18	-2.99	0.09	1.26	16	19.65	70	84	71	0	0	2	0
	HONOLULU	83	70	85	67	77	3	0.00	-0.50	0.00	0.01	1	1.35	19	80	70	0	0	0	0
	KAHULUI	84	63	87	59	74	1	0.00	-0.63	0.00	0.03	2	1.09	13	83	68	0	0	0	0
	LIHUE	80	69	81	66	74	1	0.00	-0.96	0.00	0.03	1	2.64	23	83	73	0	0	0	0
ID	BOISE	52	32	58	27	42	0	0.46	0.16	0.27	1.88	254	5.45	167	83	45	0	4	4	0
	LEWISTON	52	36	58	30	44	0	0.22	-0.03	0.09	0.55	89	3.67	132	78	54	0	2	5	0
	POCATELLO	49	27	54	21	38	2	0.16	-0.13	0.08	0.55	76	3.50	131	72	43	0	6	4	0
IL	CHICAGO/O'HARE	47	29	65	20	38	1	0.30	-0.31	0.29	0.37	26	3.69	86	84	47	0	5	2	0
	MOLINE	50	29	67	24	40	3	0.18	-0.51	0.08	0.23	15	4.93	113	82	48	0	6	3	0
	PEORIA	51	30	68	22	40	1	0.50	-0.17	0.21	0.50	32	3.13	70	85	46	0	5	4	0
	ROCKFORD	47	26	61	19	36	1	0.18	-0.38	0.15	0.44	34	3.90	105	85	53	0	6	2	0
	SPRINGFIELD	52	29	72	13	40	-1	0.65	-0.09	0.46	0.75	42	2.56	51	86	54	0	6	4	0
IN	EVANSVILLE	56	30	70	19	43	-3	1.27	0.18	1.18	1.90	70	13.51	159	87	57	0	4	3	1
	FORT WAYNE	48	26	66	19	37	-1	0.07	-0.59	0.05	0.47	29	3.29	61	91	55	0	6	3	0
	INDIANAPOLIS	51	29	69	17	40	-1	0.32	-0.55	0.32	0.76	35	5.69	82	82	49	0	6	1	0
	SOUTH BEND	46	27	62	19	37	0	1.03	0.32	0.72	1.07	64	5.10	88	88	50	0	5	4	1
IA	BURLINGTON	49	29	67	22	39	0	0.24	-0.42	0.15	0.28	18	3.74	95	83	37	0	6	3	0
	CEDAR RAPIDS	47	25	58	20	36	1	0.19	-0.34	0.16	0.19	16	2.75	85	89	45	0	7	4	0
	DES MOINES	49	28	58	22	38	1	0.18	-0.35	0.18	0.18	15	2.84	86	78	48	0	7	1	0
	DUBUQUE	43	25	53	20	34	0	0.24	-0.42	0.20	0.24	16	3.07	75	84	59	0	7	4	0
	SIOUX CITY	50	23	63	14	37	1	0.26	-0.20	0.22	0.40	38	1.56	67	85	44	0	7	2	0
	WATERLOO	45	25	56	15	35	1	0.48	-0.04	0.23	0.53	43	2.60	84	84	50	0	7	5	0
KS	CONCORDIA	51	29	62	21	40	-1	0.27	-0.25	0.27	1.41	116	3.48	136	78	55	0	4	1	0
	DODGE CITY	50	29	66	22	40	-3	0.34	-0.02	0.21	2.39	288	3.05	157	92	54	0	5	2	0
	GOODLAND	49	24	58	19	37	-2	0.09	-0.19	0.05	1.24	188	2.22	152	86	57	0	7	3	0
	TOPEKA	52	32	59	24	42	-2	0.77	0.20	0.35	1.35	102	3.54	107	85	62	0	4	4	0

Based on 1961-90 normals

*** Not Available

Weather Data for the Week Ending March 18, 2000

STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																	TEMP. °F		PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
	WICHITA	51	34	64	26	43	-2	1.02	0.45	0.53	2.31	171	5.95	192	88	69	0	2	4	1
KY	JACKSON	56	34	72	27	45	-2	0.32	-0.78	0.31	0.91	33	7.07	68	78	36	0	4	2	0
	LEXINGTON	53	32	69	26	43	-2	1.35	0.33	1.35	1.83	72	10.04	117	77	49	0	4	1	1
	LOUISVILLE	57	35	72	27	46	0	1.60	0.53	1.58	2.04	76	14.17	160	82	52	0	3	2	1
	PADUCAH	59	34	70	22	46	-2	1.82	0.70	1.56	2.55	91	14.12	141	88	38	0	2	3	1
LA	BATON ROUGE	71	50	80	35	61	0	1.39	0.32	0.78	1.70	61	5.13	39	10	56	0	0	4	2
	LAKE CHARLES	73	52	80	38	63	2	1.03	0.29	0.59	1.21	62	3.52	35	96	57	0	0	3	1
	NEW ORLEANS	71	55	80	42	63	1	1.58	0.48	1.13	1.60	54	5.66	40	89	65	0	0	2	1
	SHREVEPORT	67	49	79	34	58	0	1.78	0.98	1.30	2.69	128	7.60	77	96	61	0	0	4	1
ME	CARIBOU	31	11	42	-9	21	-4	0.75	0.20	0.67	1.34	97	7.16	125	86	49	0	7	4	1
	PORTLAND	43	23	67	12	33	0	0.88	-0.15	0.51	1.32	64	7.62	85	83	53	0	5	2	1
MD	BALTIMORE	57	33	71	25	45	1	0.67	-0.10	0.47	0.95	48	6.60	81	74	37	0	4	3	0
MA	BOSTON	48	29	71	16	39	0	1.39	0.56	0.70	2.45	115	7.77	83	84	48	0	4	3	1
	WORCESTER	46	25	69	12	36	2	1.46	0.56	0.61	2.38	105	8.09	86	88	48	0	6	3	1
MI	ALPENA	38	17	50	9	28	0	0.11	-0.37	0.08	0.43	37	4.33	106	95	52	0	7	3	0
	GRAND RAPIDS	45	26	58	18	35	1	0.25	-0.35	0.17	0.32	23	2.87	62	86	47	0	5	2	0
	HOUGHTON LAKE	40	21	52	13	31	3	0.21	-0.25	0.18	1.06	95	3.98	106	88	59	0	7	3	0
	LANSING	45	24	61	14	34	0	0.39	-0.14	0.37	0.44	35	2.51	61	94	64	0	5	3	0
	MUSKEGON	44	26	52	15	35	2	0.08	-0.49	0.04	0.20	15	2.30	44	82	52	0	5	2	0
	TRAVERSE CITY	41	24	56	17	33	4	0.11	-0.28	0.08	0.76	81	3.59	82	87	44	0	7	2	0
MN	DULUTH	31	11	40	-4	21	-3	0.27	-0.17	0.25	0.89	86	2.81	92	76	45	0	7	2	0
	INT'L FALLS	31	7	54	-4	19	-3	0.01	-0.23	0.01	0.14	25	0.97	47	80	39	0	7	1	0
	MINNEAPOLIS	38	23	51	15	31	0	0.12	-0.33	0.10	0.46	44	2.42	84	-99	-99	0	6	2	0
	ROCHESTER	38	22	51	13	30	0	0.00	-0.41	0.00	0.16	17	2.91	119	83	65	0	7	0	0
	ST. CLOUD	37	17	44	8	27	-1	0.00	-0.32	0.00	1.01	140	2.80	134	86	39	0	6	0	0
MS	JACKSON	68	46	74	31	57	0	0.18	-1.15	0.11	1.44	43	4.61	35	89	44	0	1	2	0
	MERIDIAN	68	43	77	28	56	-1	0.53	-1.01	0.49	1.29	33	5.86	40	87	48	0	1	2	0
	TUPELO	64	40	71	31	52	-2	1.40	0.00	0.67	2.19	62	9.21	70	83	50	0	2	3	2
MO	COLUMBIA	52	33	71	20	42	-1	0.88	0.16	0.44	1.21	70	5.37	107	86	51	0	2	5	0
	KANSAS CITY	51	32	56	26	41	-2	1.45	0.87	0.76	1.90	139	4.57	128	86	49	0	4	4	2
	SAINT LOUIS	56	34	73	24	45	0	0.19	-0.64	0.19	0.77	38	5.11	86	87	63	0	2	1	0
	SPRINGFIELD	59	37	72	19	48	2	0.04	-0.86	0.04	1.44	67	4.29	70	84	53	0	1	1	0
MT	BILLINGS	49	28	58	20	38	3	0.00	-0.26	0.00	0.08	13	2.89	134	74	27	0	6	0	0
	BUTTE	43	23	47	19	33	5	0.03	-0.14	0.03	0.18	44	1.08	81	84	32	0	7	1	0
	GLASGOW	39	17	52	1	28	-1	0.01	-0.07	0.01	0.01	5	0.24	28	83	60	0	7	1	0
	GREAT FALLS	47	23	51	16	35	2	0.05	-0.20	0.02	0.25	42	1.28	62	84	36	0	7	3	0
	KALISPELL	41	31	44	25	36	2	0.50	0.28	0.19	0.71	125	2.33	73	90	60	0	4	5	0
	MILES CITY	49	25	54	17	37	4	0.00	-0.13	0.00	0.00	0	1.05	80	85	31	0	6	0	0
	MISSOULA	44	28	48	22	36	0	0.13	-0.09	0.05	0.15	26	2.61	100	87	53	0	7	4	0
NE	GRAND ISLAND	48	24	60	14	36	-2	0.41	-0.02	0.41	0.90	89	2.50	114	88	60	0	6	1	0
	LINCOLN	51	26	61	16	39	0	0.27	-0.21	0.27	0.36	32	2.01	85	79	48	0	5	1	0
	NORFOLK	49	23	62	12	36	0	0.25	-0.18	0.22	0.57	56	1.89	82	86	45	0	6	2	0
	NORTH PLATTE	52	22	59	11	37	1	0.08	-0.19	0.04	1.00	161	1.77	126	88	38	0	7	2	0
	OMAHA	51	27	61	17	39	0	0.25	-0.22	0.24	0.34	31	2.46	95	85	60	0	5	2	0
	SCOTTSBLUFF	51	24	62	19	38	2	0.07	-0.18	0.03	0.80	140	1.95	127	89	52	0	7	4	0
	VALENTINE	50	19	60	9	35	2	0.01	-0.23	0.01	0.65	120	2.04	162	85	49	0	7	1	0
NV	ELY	54	23	59	16	39	5	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.61	113	2.88	152	87	37	0	7	0	0
	LAS VEGAS	73	51	80	48	62	6	0.00	-0.10	0.00	0.23	85	1.82	148	47	28	0	0	0	0
	RENO	64	33	68	25	49	6	0.00	-0.17	0.00	0.38	83	3.50	139	63	36	0	4	0	0
	WINNEMUCCA	57	28	62	21	42	2	0.06	-0.11	0.06	0.57	133	3.47	194	80	47	0	6	1	0
NH	CONCORD	44	20	68	5	32	0	1.01	0.40	0.36	2.01	129	7.10	108	85	48	0	6	3	0
NJ	NEWARK	55	34	70	22	44	2	0.86	-0.02	0.57	1.86	85	6.79	79	83	52	0	3	3	1
NM	ALBUQUERQUE	63	34	69	28	49	2	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.03	11	0.63	53	45	18	0	2	0	0
NY	ALBANY	45	23	63	9	34	0	0.95	0.28	0.49	1.95	117	8.21	130	86	51	0	6	4	0
	BINGHAMTON	43	23	60	10	33	0	0.74	0.10	0.55	2.02	127	8.33	132	75	53	0	6	4	1
	BUFFALO	41	25	57	14	33	-1	0.86	0.25	0.48	1.72	113	6.12	94	87	48	0	5	4	0
	ROCHESTER	42	27	57	15	34	0	0.77	0.25	0.34	1.92	148	6.87	125	83	52	0	5	4	0
	SYRACUSE	42	23	58	9	33	-1	0.58	-0.05	0.44	1.01	66	6.19	103	90	52	0	7	4	0
NC	ASHEVILLE	55	32	66	23	44	-3	0.29	-0.78	0.26	1.30	47	6.73	68	88	49	0	4	2	0
	CHARLOTTE	61	36	69	27	49	-2	1.26	0.23	1.26	1.77	66	8.43	82	84	36	0	2	1	1
	GREENSBORO	59	34	69	27	47	-2	1.62	0.77	1.59	1.73	79	7.23	83	79	30	0	4	2	1
	HATTERAS	61	47	71	40	54	2	0.20	-0.78	0.12	0.23	9	9.92	83	83	60	0	0	2	0
	RALEIGH	61	35	70	28	48	-2	0.41	-0.46	0.41	0.41	18	8.64	91	84	37	0	3	1	0
	WILMINGTON	68	41	76	36	55	1	1.04	0.15	0.87	1.35	58	7.32	74	84	41	0	0	2	1
ND	BISMARCK	35	17	53	7	26	-2	0.15	-0.02	0.08	1.14	308	3.27	262	91	71	0	7	4	0
	DICKINSON	41	19	54	10	30	1	0.05	-0.10	0.03	0.11	35	1.33	128	93	47	0	7	2	0
	FARGO	32	16	46	4	24	-2	0.02	-0.22	0.02	0.79	149	2.13	129	84	58	0	7	1	0
	GRAND FORKS	34	15	55	9	24	0	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.00	0	1.77	104	85	40	0	7	0	0
	JAMESTOWN	32	15	50	3	24	-3	0.24	0.04	0.12	0.73	166	3.14	205	93	61	0	7	3	0
	WILLISTON	37	17	55	0	27	-1	0.13	-0.02	0.08	0.21	60	1.05	81	86	62	0	7	3	0
OH	AKRON-CANTON	47	27	65	19	37	-1	0.60	-0.17	0.50	1.05	55	6.02	96	87	54	0	5	3	1
	CINCINNATI	52	29	68	22	40	-3	0.84	-0.14	0.82	1.44	59	11.60	150	79	45	0	6	2	1
	CLEVELAND	48	29	65	22	38	1	0.60	-0.06	0.32	1.13	69	5.81	99	88	46	0	5	3	0
	COLUMBUS	50	30	68	22	40	-1	0.78	0.03	0.70	1.07	58	7.39	118	78	44	0	4	2	1
	DAYTON	48	29	67	21	38	-3	0.68	-0.11	0.67	0.70	36	6.05	97	84	45	0	5	2	1
	MANSFIELD	47	27	67	18	37	-1	0.37	-0.39	0.35	0.69	38	6.30	108	89	43	0	5	3	0

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STATES AND STATIONS		TEMPERATURE °F						PRECIPITATION							RELATIVE HUMIDITY, PERCENT		NUMBER OF DAYS			
																	TEMP. °F		PRECIP	
		AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	EXTREME HIGH	EXTREME LOW	AVERAGE	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	WEEKLY TOTAL, IN.	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	GREATEST IN 24-HOUR, IN.	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Mar 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Mar 1	TOTAL, IN., SINCE Jan 1	PCT. NORMAL SINCE Jan 1	AVERAGE MAXIMUM	AVERAGE MINIMUM	90 AND ABOVE	32 AND BELOW	.01 INCH OR MORE	.50 INCH OR MORE
	TOLEDO	47	28	63	17	37	1	0.24	-0.37	0.11	0.41	28	3.19	64	88	53	0	5	5	0
	YOUNGSTOWN	47	26	65	17	36	0	0.76	0.05	0.51	1.16	66	5.30	90	87	50	0	5	5	1
OK	OKLAHOMA CITY	60	39	72	27	49	-1	0.63	0.00	0.19	1.57	102	3.79	90	93	66	0	1	4	0
	TULSA	60	42	75	29	51	0	1.18	0.38	0.56	2.67	138	4.89	90	82	62	0	1	4	1
OR	ASTORIA	53	39	56	32	46	0	2.53	0.91	0.99	4.90	115	21.67	99	95	77	0	1	6	1
	BURNS	49	25	55	21	37	1	0.23	-0.01	0.10	0.97	159	4.49	190	86	55	0	7	3	0
	EUGENE	54	37	60	30	46	-1	1.20	-0.08	0.44	2.68	80	18.23	108	94	75	0	1	4	0
	MEDFORD	57	35	63	28	46	-1	0.61	0.20	0.27	1.54	139	9.30	162	91	46	0	3	5	0
	PENDLETON	54	35	60	30	44	-1	0.72	0.44	0.38	2.19	313	7.18	214	86	59	0	2	5	0
	PORTLAND	54	39	58	33	46	-1	1.57	0.76	0.51	3.40	158	13.57	120	91	69	0	0	5	1
	SALEM	54	37	59	30	45	-1	1.14	0.18	0.54	3.28	129	17.26	133	93	74	0	1	6	1
PA	ALLENTOWN	53	27	68	18	40	1	1.34	0.60	0.96	2.69	143	7.43	93	86	49	0	6	3	1
	ERIE	45	28	62	19	36	0	0.42	-0.27	0.24	1.30	77	5.73	93	84	52	0	5	5	0
	MIDDLETOWN	55	32	71	21	44	3	0.12	-0.62	0.10	1.56	82	5.90	77	74	34	0	3	2	0
	PHILADELPHIA	56	34	68	24	45	2	1.62	0.83	0.83	2.29	117	7.55	95	78	47	0	3	3	1
	PITTSBURGH	50	28	68	19	39	0	0.62	-0.17	0.60	1.27	65	5.50	80	78	34	0	5	2	1
	WILKES-BARRE	49	27	66	11	38	1	1.09	0.51	0.64	2.01	140	6.49	114	77	44	0	5	4	1
	WILLIAMSPORT	50	27	67	18	38	0	0.93	0.21	0.74	1.86	102	6.24	88	84	42	0	6	3	1
RI	PROVIDENCE	50	29	71	17	40	3	1.68	0.76	0.71	3.60	155	10.53	107	79	52	0	4	3	2
SC	BEAUFORT	67	48	77	39	58	-1	0.95	-0.01	0.95	1.14	47	4.07	43	90	47	0	0	1	1
	CHARLESTON	68	45	78	36	56	-2	0.65	-0.37	0.65	1.45	56	7.50	80	87	40	0	0	1	1
	COLUMBIA	65	41	76	31	53	-2	0.47	-0.65	0.47	1.12	39	11.18	98	85	42	0	2	1	0
	GREENVILLE	59	37	69	28	48	-4	0.67	-0.57	0.67	1.37	43	6.96	59	87	36	0	3	1	1
SD	ABERDEEN	39	17	52	9	28	-2	0.13	-0.18	0.13	0.99	143	1.95	127	86	58	0	7	1	0
	HURON	47	18	60	8	33	1	0.03	-0.35	0.03	0.17	19	0.95	48	81	40	0	7	1	0
	RAPID CITY	46	23	56	15	35	1	0.00	-0.23	0.00	2.52	485	3.05	213	89	43	0	7	0	0
	SIOUX FALLS	44	17	57	7	30	-3	0.15	-0.22	0.12	0.45	53	2.17	109	84	47	0	7	2	0
TN	BRISTOL	58	31	69	24	44	-3	0.51	-0.34	0.43	1.70	78	7.19	81	88	34	0	5	2	0
	CHATTANOOGA	62	40	71	31	51	1	0.32	-1.08	0.29	2.32	65	9.83	74	81	40	0	2	2	0
	KNOXVILLE	58	36	69	28	47	-2	0.77	-0.42	0.77	2.12	70	10.68	95	92	46	0	4	1	1
	MEMPHIS	63	41	70	28	52	-1	1.43	0.20	0.72	2.57	83	9.31	83	83	42	0	1	3	2
	NASHVILLE	62	37	72	29	49	-1	0.29	-0.82	0.29	0.79	28	8.06	79	79	39	0	1	1	0
TX	ABILENE	68	43	79	34	55	-1	0.00	-0.30	0.00	0.56	75	1.17	40	76	49	0	0	0	0
	AMARILLO	61	31	73	25	46	-1	0.00	-0.22	0.00	0.38	68	0.66	40	87	39	0	6	0	0
	AUSTIN	69	43	83	30	56	-6	0.84	0.43	0.68	1.00	93	5.97	120	96	67	0	1	3	1
	BEAUMONT	73	53	79	42	63	2	1.23	0.51	1.18	2.00	106	4.40	44	96	58	0	0	3	1
	BROWNSVILLE	78	59	86	52	69	0	0.33	0.22	0.30	0.33	118	1.47	51	92	70	0	0	3	0
	CORPUS CHRISTI	74	57	82	51	65	-1	3.66	3.47	3.66	3.66	654	4.78	113	90	72	0	0	1	1
	DEL RIO	77	50	86	41	64	1	0.01	-0.13	0.01	0.05	16	1.03	57	79	46	0	0	1	0
	EL PASO	74	41	79	34	58	3	0.00	-0.06	0.00	0.08	42	0.11	11	40	18	0	0	0	0
	FORT WORTH	67	45	76	37	56	-1	0.03	-0.60	0.02	0.83	54	5.72	103	82	53	0	0	2	0
	GALVESTON	71	59	77	49	65	3	1.44	0.94	1.42	1.58	122	5.01	74	92	63	0	0	3	1
	HOUSTON	73	50	78	34	62	1	0.88	0.22	0.50	0.94	55	4.51	57	94	64	0	0	3	1
	LUBBOCK	67	36	80	27	52	1	0.00	-0.19	0.00	0.32	64	0.37	24	70	42	0	2	0	0
	MIDLAND	71	40	81	27	55	-1	0.00	-0.14	0.00	0.36	103	0.97	71	70	35	0	2	0	0
	SAN ANGELO	73	42	81	30	57	-1	0.02	-0.17	0.02	0.06	12	0.37	16	73	41	0	1	1	0
	SAN ANTONIO	70	47	85	34	59	-3	0.54	0.21	0.31	0.55	65	4.15	95	93	52	0	0	2	0
	VICTORIA	72	52	84	38	62	-1	1.98	1.65	1.96	2.18	251	6.60	131	90	67	0	0	2	1
	WACO	67	45	76	35	56	-2	0.11	-0.41	0.11	0.90	69	7.49	149	94	70	0	0	1	0
	WICHITA FALLS	64	39	75	31	51	-2	0.08	-0.42	0.08	0.52	43	2.45	66	92	68	0	1	1	0
UT	SALT LAKE CITY	51	32	56	28	42	0	0.23	-0.21	0.11	0.46	43	4.43	130	81	39	0	4	4	0
VT	BURLINGTON	37	20	50	8	29	-2	0.42	-0.08	0.28	0.86	70	5.43	116	82	53	0	6	3	0
VA	LYNCHBURG	58	32	69	25	45	-1	0.15	-0.65	0.10	0.72	35	5.89	74	78	36	0	5	3	0
	NORFOLK	61	39	74	33	50	1	0.59	-0.26	0.24	0.75	34	6.95	74	85	50	0	0	3	0
	RICHMOND	60	35	71	27	48	0	1.07	0.24	0.81	1.79	84	7.38	87	83	43	0	3	3	1
	ROANOKE	58	32	71	26	45	-2	0.36	-0.44	0.27	0.99	49	4.76	62	79	39	0	5	3	0
	WASH/DULLES	57	33	71	24	45	2	0.47	-0.25	0.30	0.96	52	4.65	63	81	40	0	3	3	0
WA	OLYMPIA	51	35	56	29	43	-1	1.91	0.78	0.66	4.84	161	18.84	112	98	80	0	2	6	2
	QUILLAYUTE	51	39	56	35	45	2	4.39	1.76	1.62	7.49	108	29.46	87	96	84	0	0	7	3
	SEATTLE-TACOMA	50	39	58	34	45	0	1.19	0.38	0.46	2.99	140	12.01	104	98	86	0	0	6	0
	SPOKANE	45	29	49	25	37	-2	0.54	0.21	0.16	2.10	236	5.61	129	94	58	0	6	4	0
	YAKIMA	55	30	57	25	43	0	0.19	0.03	0.12	0.65	155	3.52	149	84	52	0	6	4	0
WV	BECKLEY	51	28	65	16	40	-2	0.66	-0.11	0.52	1.78	91	6.32	81	80	50	0	5	3	1
	CHARLESTON	54	29	72	21	41	-5	0.41	-0.42	0.35	1.36	64	7.02	87	94	42	0	5	3	0
	ELKINS	53	21	68	13	37	-3	0.37	-0.51	0.18	1.47	67	7.29	88	97	42	0	6	3	0
	HUNTINGTON	54	30	72	22	42	-4	0.70	-0.15	0.70	1.75	82	9.07	115	85	34	0	5	1	1
WI	EAU CLAIRE	41	19	54	7	30	0	0.13	-0.26	0.13	0.24	28	2.99	116	86	38	0	7	1	0
	GREEN BAY	42	21	53	14	32	2	0.10	-0.37	0.04	0.29	26	2.20	67	88	54	0	7	3	0
	LA CROSSE	42	24	54	18	33	0	0.00	-0.45	0.00	0.00	0	2.37	83	84	40	0	7	0	0
	MADISON	43	23	52	18	33	1	0.29	-0.21	0.11	0.51	44	3.31	100	86	55	0	7	4	0
	MILWAUKEE	43	28	55	21	35	2	0.05	-0.56	0.03	0.15	11	3.01	67	81	56	0	5	2	0
WY	CASPER	46	20	56	14	33	0	0.07	-0.14	0.05	0.31	62	1.33	81	82	44	0	7	2	0
	CHEYENNE	44	22	56	20	33	0	0.20	-0.04	0.14	0.34	62	1.28	96	84	47	0	7	2	0
	LANDER	48	23	56	18	35	1	0.04	-0.22	0.03	0.17	30	0.44	27	79	36	0	7	2	0
	SHERIDAN	47	22	54	16	35	1	0.04	-0.17	0.04	0.26	52	2.39	128	80	46	0	6	1	0

Based on 1961-90 normals

*** Not Available

NOTE: These data are preliminary and subject to change. In the past, precipitation totals from a number of stations have been incomplete.

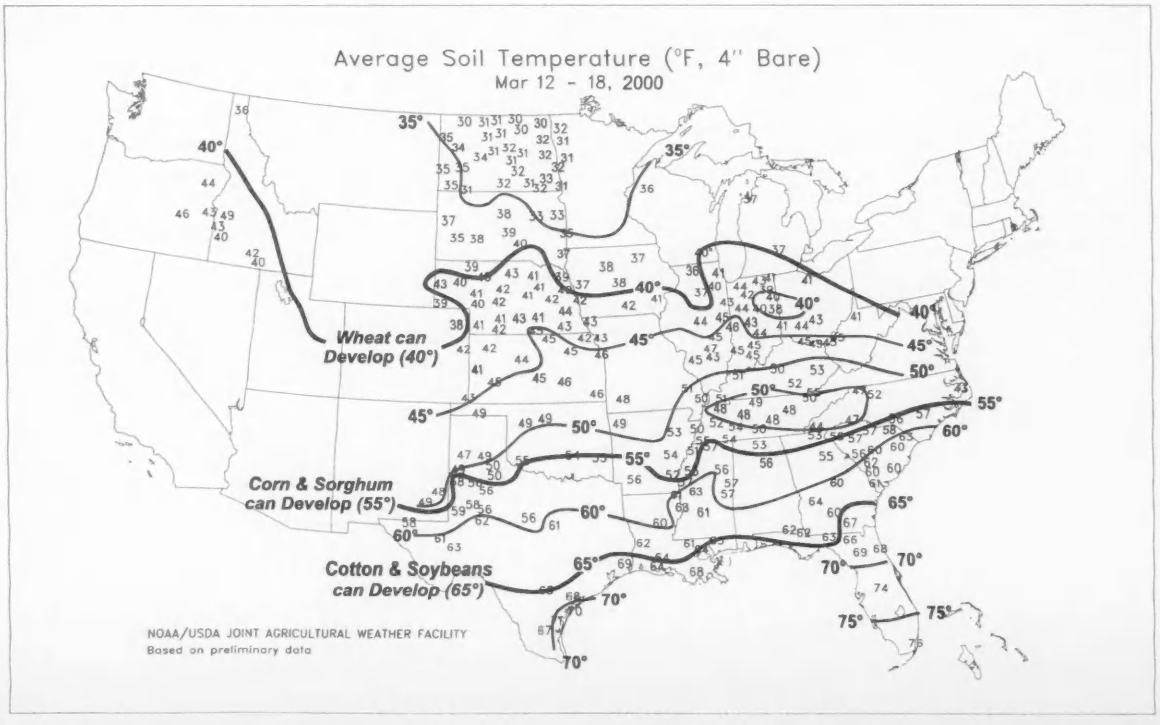
National Agricultural Summary

March 13 - 19, 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

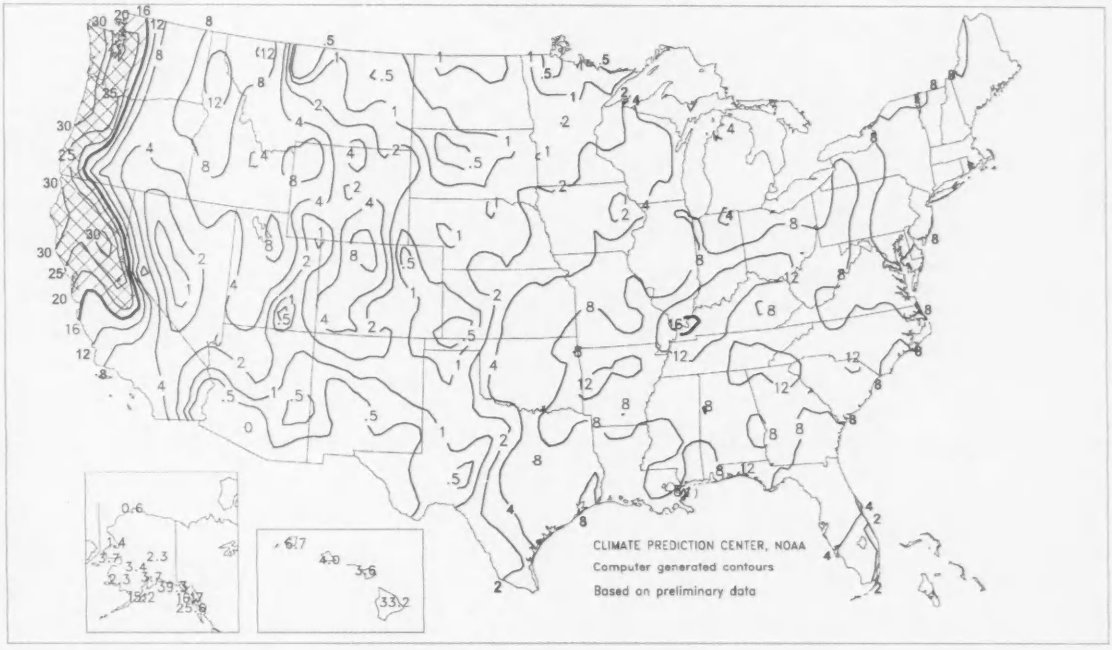
A cold front produced moderate to heavy rainfall as it moved eastward from the western Gulf coast through the lower Mississippi Valley late in the week. The rainfall boosted soil moisture levels in southern and eastern parts of Texas and much of the Mississippi Delta region. Adjacent areas of the Southeast, Ohio Valley, southern Appalachians, and Atlantic Coastal Plains received lighter precipitation. Most of Oklahoma and eastern Kansas also received beneficial rainfall. However, southern Georgia and most of Florida remained too dry, receiving only scattered precipitation, while drought conditions continued in central Texas and the High Plains. In the Corn Belt, scattered, light precipitation moistened soils, but a dry weather pattern returned in the upper Mississippi Valley and northern Great Plains. Dry weather also returned to the Southwest and most of the Pacific Coast.

Rain along the western Gulf coast and isolated flooding along streams in the Coastal Bend region halted fieldwork after midweek. Adequate moisture supplies aided emergence and development of row crops in eastern and southern Texas, although below-normal temperatures limited growth. In other areas of the State, dry soils limited fieldwork and hindered crop development. Cool weather limited winter wheat growth in the central Great Plains, but soil moisture levels were adequate to sustain development. Despite the below-normal temperatures, winter wheat development was ahead of normal in Oklahoma and Kansas, where 60 and 13 percent, respectively, was jointing. Fieldwork resumed in northern California, as dry weather allowed excess moisture to drain from soggy soils. Florida citrus growers continued irrigating groves, while trees continued to bloom. In the Corn Belt and Great Plains, farmers continued applying fertilizers and herbicides and tilling fields. A few growers planted small grains. In Kansas, nearly half of the spring oat crop was planted.

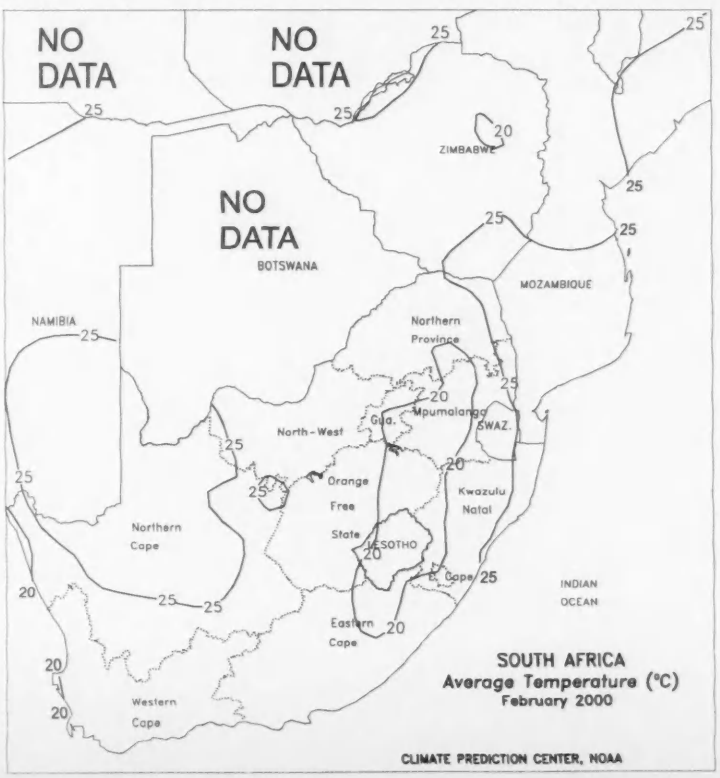

Average Soil Temperature (°F, 4" Bare)
Mar 12 - 18, 2000
Wheat can Develop (40°)
Corn & Sorghum can Develop (55°)
Cotton & Soybeans can Develop (65°)
NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY
Based on preliminary data

Total Precipitation (Inches)

DEC 1999- FEB 2000



Correction: The following maps should have been published in last week's *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin #87/11*. The United States Winter 1999-2000 Total Precipitation (top) and South African February 2000 Average Temperature (bottom) maps were mistakenly represented by the United States Winter 1999-2000 Percent of Normal Precipitation (p. 10) and Europe February 2000 Average Temperature (p. 19), respectively.



International Weather and Crop Summary

March 12 - 18, 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE: Light showers brought little relief from developing drought in Spain and Portugal.

FSU-WESTERN: Rain and snow accompanied seasonably cool weather, increasing spring moisture reserves but keeping winter grains dormant.

EASTERN ASIA: Across the North China Plain, warmer weather promoted winter wheat greening and early vegetative growth.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: In Java, Indonesia, drier weather aided maturing main-season rice, while heavy showers returned to east-central Philippines.

SOUTH AMERICA: In southern Brazil, mostly dry weather aided maturing soybeans in Rio Grande do Sul and Parana, but showers slowed soybean harvesting in the north.

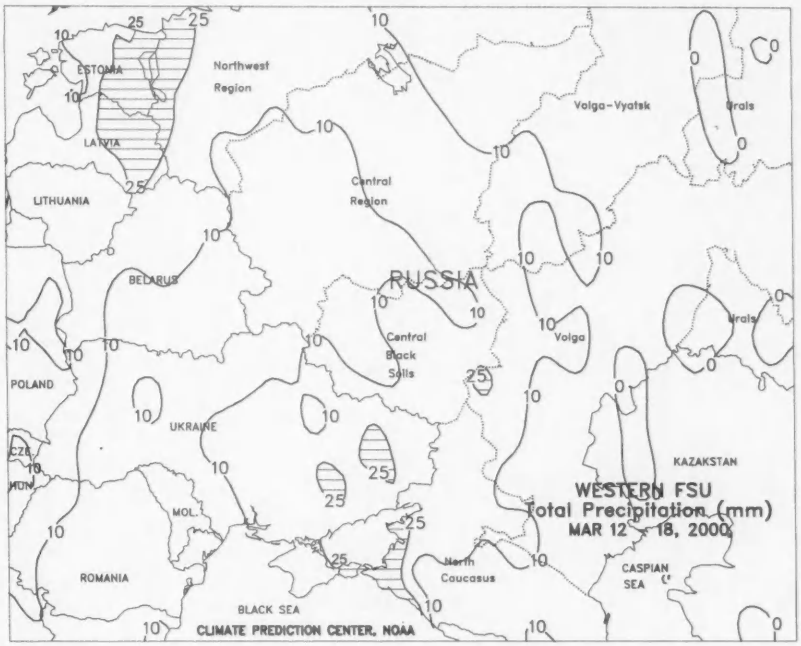
AUSTRALIA: Drier weather improved conditions for maturing cotton and sorghum.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: Drought conditions remained firmly entrenched, despite slightly cooler weather and scattered showers.

SOUTH AFRICA: Widespread showers benefited immature corn and other summer crops.

EUROPE

In England and France, dry weather helped spring grain planting. Despite this dry weather, soil moisture remained adequate in southern England and northern France for winter grains in the tillering and jointing stages of development. Farther south, mainly dry, unseasonably warm weather continued across the Iberian peninsula, further reducing moisture supplies for jointing winter grains and recently planted corn, cotton, and sunflowers. Although a few showers (less than 10 mm) fell in southern Spain and Portugal early in the week, this rainfall did little to slow developing drought across the peninsula. Similarly, dry weather continued across northern Italy, where about one-quarter of the normal precipitation has fallen since early December. Rainfall is needed to increase soil moisture for vegetative winter wheat and barley. Elsewhere in southern Europe, scattered precipitation (3-24 mm) fell from Slovenia, Croatia, and southern Italy eastward, helping spring wheat germination in southern Italy and cotton emergence and establishment in Greece. Farther north, widespread precipitation (8-33 mm, with locally heavier amounts) fell from Germany and Austria eastward, delaying spring grain planting, but maintaining adequate to locally excessive soil moisture for winter grains and oilseeds. Temperatures in east-central Europe were unseasonably cold (1-3 degrees C below normal), while elsewhere across the continent temperatures averaged near to slightly above normal (0-3 degrees C above normal).



FSU-WESTERN

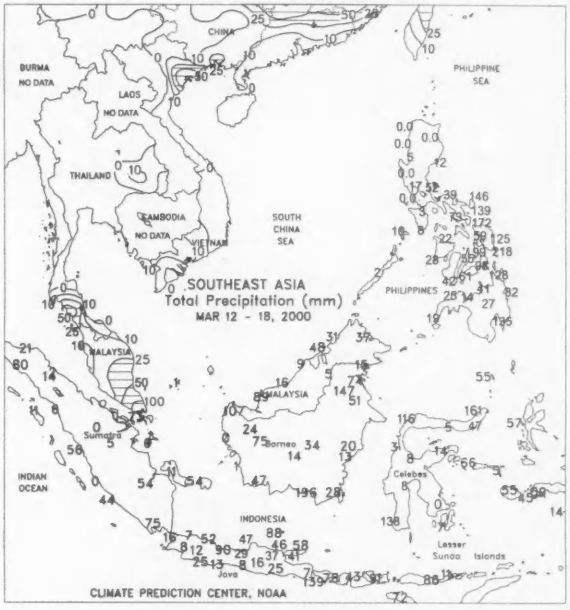
A series of storm systems brought unsettled weather to the region during the week. Rain and snow (5-25 mm or more of liquid equivalent) fell in the Baltics, Belarus, Ukraine, and southern Russia, increasing moisture reserves but hampering early-spring fieldwork. Light to moderate snow (5-13 of mm liquid equivalent) fell in northern Russia, increasing snow cover. Seasonably cool weather prevailed over most areas, keeping winter grains dormant. Weekly temperatures averaged near to slightly above normal in most areas. Typically, winter grains begin breaking dormancy in early April in Ukraine and southern areas in Russia (southern Black Soils Region, lower Volga Valley, and the North Caucasus).

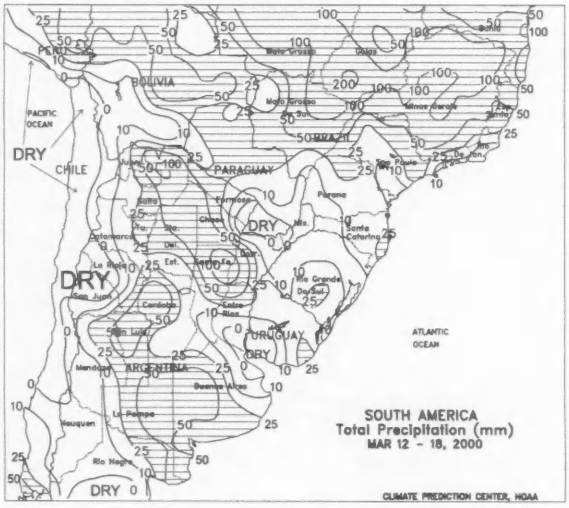
EASTERN ASIA

In the North China Plain, seasonably warmer weather continued to promote winter wheat greening and early vegetative growth. Also, dry weather continued across the region, necessitating supplemental irrigation for wheat development. Warmer weather pushed into Manchuria, but soil temperatures are still too cold for spring wheat planting. Weekly average temperatures remained below zero C across Manchuria. Temperatures averaged 2 to 4 degrees C above normal across the North China Plain and most of Manchuria. Moderate showers (25-75 mm) increased moisture supplies for early rice transplanting and winter grain development across southeastern China (Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Fujian, and Hunan). Temperatures averaged near normal across southern China.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

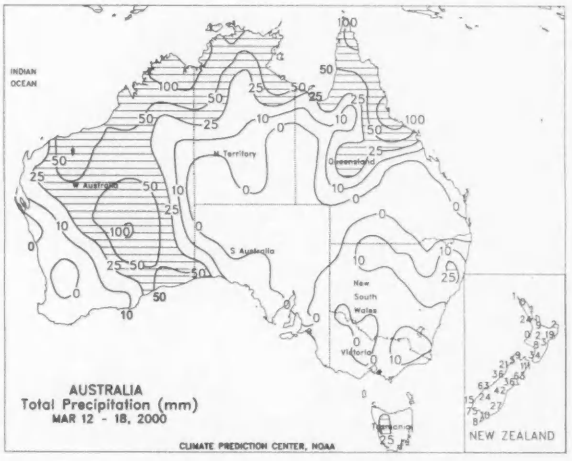
Seasonably drier weather (12-40 mm) continued across Java, Indonesia, aiding maturing main-season rice. Lighter showers (10-40 mm) fell across peninsular Malaysia, which had adequate moisture supplies for oil palm. Mostly dry weather prevailed across Thailand. Scattered light rain (less than 20 mm) fell across southern and central Vietnam. Isolated heavy showers (125-175 mm) were reported across the Red River Delta in northern Vietnam, causing local flooding and slowing winter-spring rice transplanting. Unseasonably heavy showers (60-130 mm) returned to the east-central Philippines, causing some local flooding and interrupting second-crop grain harvesting. Elsewhere in the Philippines, mostly dry weather aided second-crop grain harvesting in western Luzon.





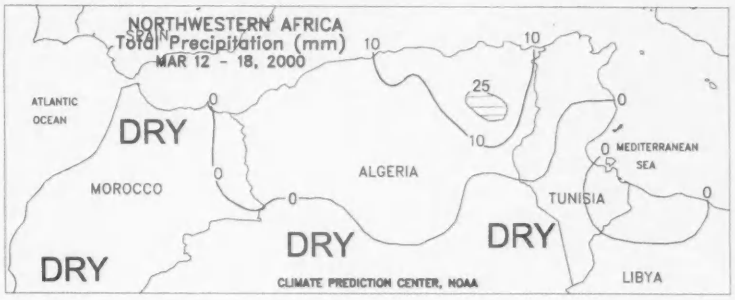
SOUTH AMERICA

In southern Brazil, drier weather (less than 20 mm) prevailed across Rio Grande do Sul and Parana, aiding maturing soybeans. Farther north in Mato Grosso do Sul, Mato Grosso, and Goias, moderate to heavy showers (50-150 mm) caused some soybean harvest delays. According to reports as of March 17, Brazilian soybeans were 14 percent harvested compared with the 5-year average of 22 percent. In southern Paraguay, mostly dry weather aided cotton and soybean maturation and harvesting. In northern Argentina, dry weather favored cotton maturation and harvesting in eastern Formosa. However, scattered heavier showers (40-170 mm) fell elsewhere in the north, slowing cotton maturation. In central Argentina, moderate showers (25-50 mm, with isolated amounts greater than 70 mm) fell across northern La Pampa and most of Buenos Aires, aiding flowering second-crop soybeans, but slowing corn and first-crop soybean harvesting. Drier weather (less than 15 mm) prevailed across northeastern Buenos Aires and southern Santa Fe, aiding fieldwork. Temperatures averaged 1 to 2 degrees C above normal across Argentina and southern Brazil. According to reports as of March 17, national Argentine corn and sunflower were 17 and 61 percent harvested, respectively. Corn was 80 percent harvested in Entre Rios, 49 percent in Santa Fe, 11 percent in Buenos Aires, and 10 percent in Cordoba. In Uruguay, scattered, light rain (2-18 mm) provided little drought relief.



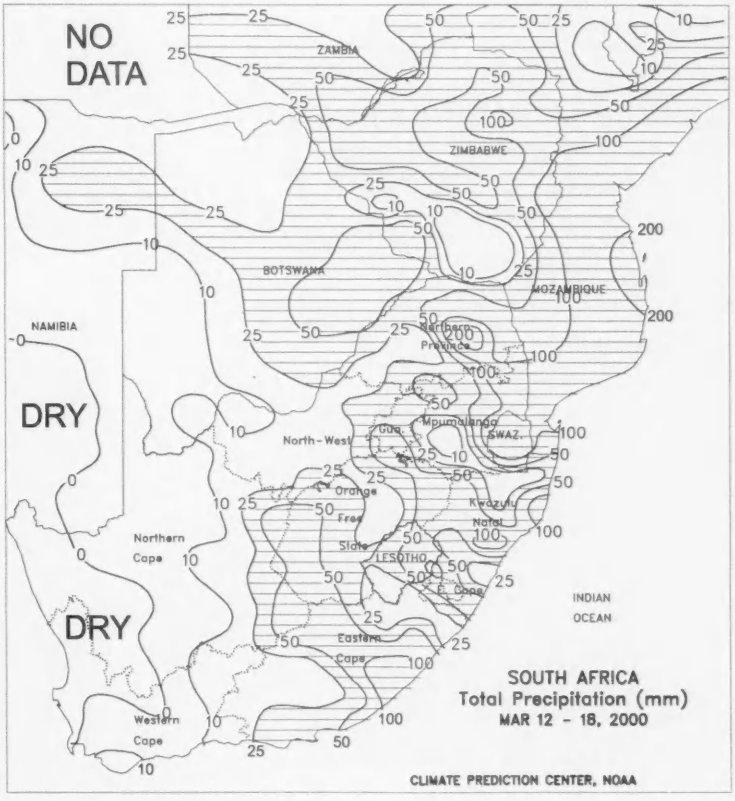
AUSTRALIA

Somewhat drier weather returned to the eastern summer crop zones. No rain fell in southern Queensland, bringing some relief to maturing cotton and sorghum, and allowing a resumption in harvesting. Dry weather also dominated a broad area of northeastern New South Wales south of Darling Downs, but showers (5-25 mm) lingered in western growing areas of northern New South Wales. Heavy rain (100 mm or greater) caused additional localized flooding and crop concerns in Queensland's northern sugarcane areas. Dry, warm weather continued throughout the southeast, increasing moisture demands on livestock and pastures. Seasonably drier conditions returned to Western Australia, but temperatures remained near to below normal. In New Zealand, moderate to heavy rain (25-50 mm or more) benefited pastures and small grain areas of South Island. Rainfall continued to be light (10 mm or less) over most agricultural areas of North Island.



NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

While drought continued to reduce yield prospects for crops throughout the winter growing areas, slightly cooler weather eased last week's heatwave. Maximum temperatures in the area moderated, ranging from the low to mid 20's degrees C. Scattered showers (5-21 mm) fell in Algeria, providing only temporary relief to drought-stricken winter grains. The area has experienced warm, dry conditions for much of the growing season. Tunisia and especially Morocco continued to experience drought conditions. Crops are in the reproductive stage of development, and significant rain is needed soon to stabilize crop conditions and prevent further yield reductions.



SOUTH AFRICA

Widespread, moderate to heavy showers (15-50 mm or more) overspread the corn belt, boosting moisture reserves for filling summer crops. Above-normal temperatures (1-2 degrees C above normal, with highs ranging from 26-32 degrees C) prior to the heaviest rain aided late crop development, helping to advance late-planted corn toward maturity. At this point in the growing season, dry, slightly warmer-than-normal weather would be beneficial for crop maturation and drydown. Warm weather in late March and early April would also further reduce the potential for autumn freeze damage to late-planted summer crops. Elsewhere, highly-variable showers (10-100 mm or more) boosted local irrigation reserves for sugarcane and other crops in KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape Province. Mostly dry weather covered crop areas of Western Cape, but below-normal temperatures (highs generally in the upper 20's degrees C) reduced crop irrigation demands.

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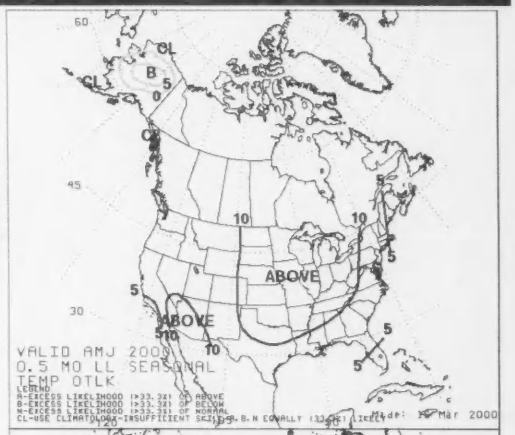
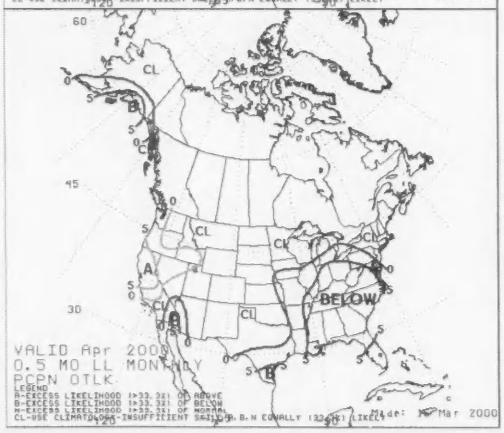
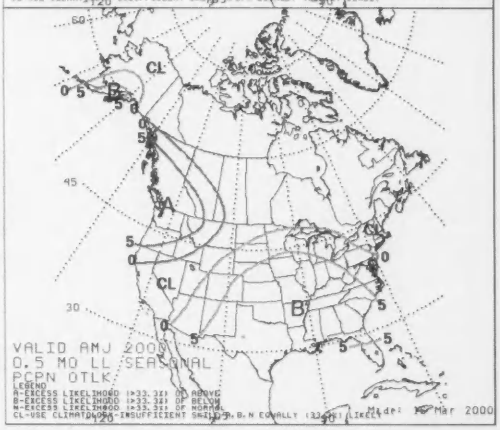


April 2000 Temperature (top) and Precipitation (bottom) Outlook





3-Month (April-June 2000) Temperature (top) and Precipitation (bottom) Outlook

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